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LB 1209

fees would have to be in place. As you heard Senator Beutler say, the state, the taxpayers of this state are going to pay \$500,000, a half a million dollars, in order to bring the necessary staff to DEQ. Why do we need that many people? At the hearings, we heard there were 4 people on staff who dedicated themselves to looking and inspecting perhaps they thought about 1,400 livestock confinements in a year, 1,400, 4 people. These same four people had to process all of the permits requests and the industry was very upset over the amount of time that it was taking to hear back from the department as far as the permits. So then the four people started spending all of their time working on the permits, so guess what they weren't doing--any of the inspections. It was interesting to me that people said we really don't need to do anything except give DEQ more money. Well, then that really brought it down to the point of that may be true but who's going to pay for it. As Senator Beutler said, there's 500,000 that taxpayers will pay and the other amount we are asking the industry to help fund. You heard the amounts as far as a registration being \$40, \$80, and with that exempting a large number of people, and certainly in the permit fees exempting what we considered to be small operators. I read recently this weekend an editorial criticizing 1209 and I'm sure that we will continue to read those. The one thing that I think the industry is missing and where they are criticizing...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BOHLKE: ...and actually where they should be thanking the committee is because of the new process for getting a permit. When I spent a day out touring with an operator the different...his different operations, the frustration that operators had was the length of time in getting their permit granted. The bill now requires that to be completed in 60 days. There were times that people were waiting a year, a year and a half, six months. This says that they have to have that granted within 60 days. Not only that, they have to hear if their application has all the information DEQ needs within 30 days. Those two issues were huge frustrating issues to the industry that we have taken care of in this bill. I have not read anywhere where anyone from the industry has said we applaud the efforts of the Natural Resources...